

DUNLEER PARISH BULLETIN

Rev. M. Murtagh P.P. 041-6851278 Mob 086 879 5804 **Sept 11th**
Parish Website www.dunleerparish.ie E-Mail gmmurtagh@eircom.net

Dunleer	Sat 10th	7 30	Av	Jim Mc Cabe Thomas Harmon Michael O Neill Brendan & Tom Cassidy
	Sun 11th	11 30	Av	Brendan Bowhan
	Sat 17th	7 30	Av	Martin, Paddy, Billy, Cathal & John Paul Kennelly
Philipstown	Sun 18th	9 30	Av	Pat Bellew
Dromin	Sun 18th	10 30	Av	Patsy Mc Cullough

Carers Group 'C' on duty this week.

Weekly Envelope & Plate collection for 4th €1,620.00.

Dromin Patrún Oct 9th at 11a.m. Prayers at 4 p.m.

Parish Choir resumes Sat Sept 17th Practice Monday 19th.

Lann Léire C.P.G Lotto 07/09/2016 No's 2.11.18.22. Wkly winners Maria Mc Geough & Hugh Callaghan. Next weeks jackpot €14,800.

The recent **Arch Club** collection amounted to €548.75

Ardee Hospice Homecare coffee morning 15/09/2016 - Brian Muldoons 10 am - 4pm & Supervalu Ardee 9am -5pm.

Lolo Robinson School of Irish Dancing classes resume on Friday 9th September in St. Brigid's Hall, Dunleer at 5.00 p.m. New pupils welcome. Contact Lolo Robinson TCRG, ADCRG (087) 2491185.

This parable of God's generous forgiveness tells us a great deal about the kind of God we believe in.

Jesus paints a picture of God as unfailingly generous and magnanimous in forgiving. We believe in a God who not only forgives but delights in forgiving and in the company of the forgiven. The story of the prodigal son is told especially to those who complained that Jesus welcomed and ate with sinners.

It may be easy to speak of the generosity, the finality and the availability of God's forgiveness but it may also be difficult to ask for that forgiveness. It may be even more difficult to accept it and to pass it on in turn as we are taught to do. Even to know and to hear ourselves say or speak of our own sin can be difficult. We are suitably vague about not being holy or not being saints but pinning down our offence and saying it out loud is another matter. The most difficult task of all is to accept forgiveness, to believe in it, to take it to heart, to be thankful for it, and to pass it on to others.

Forgiveness is a difficult subject. The resentment of the older son is within each of us. Resentment of the kind we all indulge in after the example of the older son is of no help. We assume that the forgiveness of God is the same as our own limited sense of mercy and forget that God's sense of generosity and God's joy are far removed from our grudging and sometimes sullen sense of forgiveness and acceptance.

St Luke reminds us though that all exclusion and intolerance of others, even when accompanied by strict religious behaviour and compliance is not in tune with the Gospel. Therein lies a lesson for all so-called fundamentalists, whether of the Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, or secular varieties.

The God we believe in and whom we see portrayed in the figure of the father is, as in the psalm, a God of kindness, a God of compassion, a God who washes away our guilt if we would only ask humbly. This is a parent who is moved with pity, who is tender in his welcome, who accepts, celebrates, reassures, gifts and honours, who rejoices in the sinner returned and in the struggling faithful.

Our task, in response to the teaching of Jesus in the story is to achieve an understanding of the forgiveness of God, so beyond our own grudging forgiveness. It is to cultivate a pure heart, a keen humility and acceptance of that generosity when it is applied to others or to us. Healing of the past, forgiveness in the present and hope for the future are all possible in the forgiving embrace of the Father.

Both sons need to return home, one from his journey of self-centeredness, the other from his place of hard-heartedness.